future imperfect
LAND
SECRET WARS
MARVEL
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LAND
LEISTEN
WOODARD
004

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In Dystopia, the heroes of old are mere legends and the inhabitants of the domain live under the strict rule of their lord and master, Baron MAESTRO… but not for long. A small group of rebels seeks to overthrow his authority.

After infiltrating the rebel camp by posing as the god Odin, Maestro defeated and captured the rebel leader Major Thaddeus Ross, and brought him back to his palace as a prisoner.

The remaining rebels, led by mutant Ruby Summers and aided by Layla Miller, infiltrated Maestro's palace to bust their boss out, only to find him allied with the Baron. The pair have a common enemy: Doom!

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LAND & WOODARD COVER • **MIKE DEODATO** VARIANT

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ALL HANDS. WE'RE HERE.
I SEE NO REASON THAT WE HAVE TO BE WEARING THESE DISGUISES.
TO BLEND IN.
THIS IS ANOTHER LAND. YOU REALLY WANNA ALERT DOOM THAT YOU'VE LEFT DYSTOPIA AND ARE WANDERING AROUND IN NORSEHEIM?
HE'LL FIND OUT EVENTUALLY.
YEAH, BUT IF IT'S BEFORE YOU FIND THE DESTROYER...
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT.
LET'S GO ASHORE.
I MISS JAMIE.
WELL, A BIG DOG WOULDN'T EXACTLY HAVE FIT IN ON THIS GO-AROUND, WOULD HE?
GUESS NOT.
THERE. THAT SEEMS LIKE A GOOD PLACE TO START.
A PUB?
YOU WANT TO FIND SOMEONE, YOU ASK AROUND. PEOPLE WHO ARE DRINKING ARE GENERALLY CHATTIER THAN MOST.

WELCOME. CAN I GET YE ANYTHING?
INFORMATION.
WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE.
WELL, WHAT'S THE FELLOW'S NAME? TELL ME THAT AND I'LL BE DOING MY BEST TO TELL YE.
HE'S CALLED ULIK.
I TAKE IT YOU'VE HEARD OF HIM.
TINK

GET OUT OF MY PLACE.
NO ONE'S ANSWERED OUR QUESTION.
WE WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH ANYONE SEEKING ULIK.
I SAID GET OUT!
AND I SAID...
ANSWER MY QUESTION.
WHAT... ARE YOU?
AT THE MOMENT? SIMPLY SOMEONE ASKING YOU A QUESTION.
OF COURSE, I COULD BE SOMETHING ELSE.

I COULD BE A *MOVING MAN*, FOR INSTANCE.
THIS TABLE IS SOLID OAK. WEIGHS A FEW HUNDRED POUNDS. BUT I DON'T THINK IT LOOKS GOOD THERE.
HOW ABOUT...
...OUTSIDE?
AL FRESCO DINING.
THAT'S A THOUGHT.
KRAAAAASH
WE'RE NEVER GETTING A BEER, ARE WE?
I...I DON'T KNOW WHERE ULIK IS!
YOU KNOW WHAT? YOU SEEM TO LACK CREDIBILITY.
THAT'S IT. CREDIBILITY.
PERHAPS IF I POUND YOU INTO DUST, THAT WILL GIVE YOU THE CREDIBILITY YOU CURRENTLY LACK.
PUT HIM DOWN. THAT'S UNNECESSARY.

ULIK RESIDES IN NORNHEIM. THE MAIN ENTRANCE IS ABOUT FIVE MILES WEST OF HERE.
BEAR RIGHT OUT OF THE PUB AND JUST KEEP TO THE PATH. YOU'LL PASS IT, BUT TRUST ME, YOU WON'T MISS IT.
WHO ARE YOU?
HODER?
HODER.
HODER.
AND HOW DOES THE BLIND HODER KNOW THE RESIDENCE OF ULIK THE TROLL?
BECAUSE, ONCE UPON A TIME, I WAS A GOD.
BALDUR WAS MY BROTHER. THOR MY FRIEND. ODIN MY LIEGE.
BUT THAT WAS A LONG, LONG WHILE AGO. BEFORE IT ALL ENDED.
BECAUSE OF ME.
WHEN ULIK KILLS YOU, TELL HIM THAT I SAID HELLO.

THIS IS INSANE.
SKOOTER, ENOUGH.
IT AIN'T ENOUGH! NOT 'TIL YOU LISTEN!
I *HAVE* BEEN LISTENING. DON'T HAVE A CHOICE SINCE YOU KEEP TALKING.
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE TEAMING UP WITH THE MAESTRO SO HE CAN GET A WEAPON OF SUPREME POWER!
IT'S THE BOSS' CALL.
YEAH, WELL MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T BE LISTENING TO THE BOSS NO MORE.
WHOA! HEY!
SAY ONE MORE THING, SKOOTER.
ANYTHING. AND I'LL BLOW YOUR HEAD OFF.
GO ON. I DARE YOU.

DISSENSION IN THE RANKS?
DISSENSION IS GOOD. IT GETS IDEAS OUT THERE THAT NORMALLY WOULDN'T BE SPOKEN.
YOU KNOW WHAT? WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN FRIENDS A LONG TIME AGO, THADDEUS.
WE'RE NOT FRIENDS *NOW*, BRUCE. WE WILL *NEVER* BE FRIENDS.
I'M JUST TRYING TO GET YOU OUT OF DYSTOPIA, AND IF THIS IS THE WAY TO DO IT, THEN SO BE IT.
AND IF ULIK HAS YOU ON THE BRINK OF DEATH, I'M JUST GONNA STAND THERE AND APPLAUD.
GOOD TO KNOW WHERE I STAND.
I'M A BIG BELIEVER IN HONESTY.
THERE ARE WORSE THINGS TO BELIEVE IN.
SUCH AS THAT YOU'RE THE SUPREME RULER WHOSE WORD IS LAW?
THAT'S NOT A BELIEF. THAT'S THE WAY THINGS ARE.
YEAH, WELL...THINGS CHANGE.
AH. I BELIEVE THAT'S THE ENTRANCE TO NORNHEIM.

NORNHEIM
YOU THINK?

SO THIS ULIK IS SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO GUIDE US TO THE DESTROYER?
THAT'S WHAT THE BOOK SAID.
JUST OUT OF CURIOSITY, WHERE DID YOU GET THE BOOK?
STOLE IT.
FROM WHO?
WHO DO YOU THINK?
I DID.
FROM... DOOM?
EVERYONE, HOLD UP.
WHAT? WHY?
WE'RE GOING BACK HOME.
THANK GOD.
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, ROSS?
DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK YOU WERE ABLE TO STEAL SOMETHING FROM DOOM AND HE WOULDN'T KNOW?
YOU UNDERESTIMATE ME.
AND YOU UNDERESTIMATE DOOM.
WE HAD AN UNDERSTANDING, ROSS.
AND NOW WE HAVE A NEW UNDERSTANDING. MY PEOPLE AND I ARE HEADING BACK TO DYSTOPIA.
I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
THAT'S VERY TRUE.

NO ONE ENTERS NORNHEIM AND LIVES.

YOU ARE ULIK?
I AM.
WE WANT THE DESTROYER.
AHAHA
YOU ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE DEMANDS, GREEN ONE.
YOU ARE SIMPLY IN A POSITION TO DIE.
HOW ODD.
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SAY THE SAME THING TO YOU.
KILL THEM!!!

FALL BACK!
WHAT A MARVELOUS TRICK!
IT WILL BUY YOU A FEW MORE SECONDS OF LIFE!
YA TALK A GOOD GAME.
BUT WE DIDN'T COME HERE T'TALK.

IF YOU CAME HERE TO DIE, THEN I CAN ACCOMMODATE YOU.
UNFFFF!!!
YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT KILLING US, BUT I DON'T SEE YOU DOING IT.
TAKE A SWING, THOUGH. LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT.
WHAM
OW.

MY TURN.
ARRRHH!!!
RELEASE ME, FOOL!
NOT UNTIL YOU'VE BROUGHT ME WHERE I NEED TO GO.

OOOOF!!!
THE DESTROYER IS GUARDED BY THE ANCIENT ONE, PLACED THERE BY DOOM HIMSELF.
HE WILL NEVER GRANT YOU ACCESS!
LEAVE THAT TO ME. JUST BRING ME TO HIM.
NEVER!
THEN THIS IS GOING TO GET BLOODY.

KEEP ON THEM! DON'T LET UP!
I KNEW THIS WHOLE THING WAS NOTHING BUT TROUBLE! I KNEW IT!
I KNEW THA--
NO!
KRAAAK
YOU FLARKING CREEP!
BLAAAAM
AW SKOOTER. I'M SORRY.

THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO HAPPEN.
YOU #UNFFFF÷ THINK TO DEFEAT ULIK?!
I DON'T HAVE TO THINK.
SEE, THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND ME.
I KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN.
SOONER OR LATER, YOU'RE GOING TO REALIZE YOU'RE OUTMATCHED.
OUTMATCHED?! I HAVE THE STRENGTH OF A THOR!
REALLY? FUNNY THING.
I'VE HEARD OF THORS. EVERYONE'S HEARD OF THEM.
BUT BEFORE RESEARCHING THE DESTROYER, I NEVER HEARD OF YOU.
AND AFTER WE'RE DONE HERE, I WILL DO MY BEST TO FORGET YOU.
BUT I ASSURE YOU: YOU'LL NEVER FORGET ME.
WAM
WAM
WAM
WAM
WAM

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, PEOPLE!
RIGHT BEHIND YOU, BOSS!
OOOOF!
I'VE CRACKED FAR HARDER MINERALS THAN YOU IN MY TIME!
STOP. EVERYONE... STOP.
BRING THEM TO THE ANCIENT ONE. LET HIM DEAL WITH THEM.
JUST... DO IT.

THIS IS STILL A BAD IDEA.
I WILL DESTROY DOOM. ISN'T THAT OBVIOUS YET?
NO. DOOM WILL DESTROY YOU.
THEN WHY HAVE YOU ALLIED YOURSELF WITH ME?
BECAUSE I *WANT* DOOM TO DESTROY YOU. ISN'T THAT OBVIOUS?
IT SHOULD BE, I SUPPOSE. BUT YOU STILL DO NOT APPRECIATE THE POSSIBILITIES OF WHAT HAPPENS ONCE I HAVE THE DESTROYER.
DOOM IS NOT A GOD, NO MATTER WHAT YOU MAY THINK. AND ANYTHING NOT A GOD CAN BE DESTROYED.
THROUGH THERE. THE ANCIENT ONE IS THROUGH THERE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE.
GO TO HEL.
ANCIENT ONE! I AM THE MAESTRO!
I WANT THE DESTROYER!
YEAH?

COOL.
to be continued...